Wednesday
April 2, 2008

Volume 38, Issue 25

the Communicator

Mounds of Truth

Faux

IPFW professor **reevaluates** the ontological status of coconuts

By Douglas Schmidt
schmdn01@ipfw.edu

Earlier this week, IPFW biology professor Dura Mater made a startling discovery. Coconuts have long been considered just a plant, good for nothing but suntan lotion and Almond Joys. However, Prof. Mater has determined that they are actually mammals. When asked for comment, the head of the biology department said, "Really? Holy crap!"

The true nature of coconuts has long puzzled philosophers, poets and other unemployed people, but Prof Mater cracked the story, beginning to examine coconuts three years ago, while attending a luau. The hula dancers were not amused.

After this, the world renowned professor began his famous research into coconut mating rituals. He was the first person to hear the coconut mating call, which he describes as "a sound like a cat being sawed in half."

During mating, coconuts become extremely territorial. When threatened, they fall out of the tree, hoping to strike their enemies on the head and give them amnesia.

After years of long, hard, sweaty, smelly, itchy research, Prof. Mater uncovered several startling facts about coconuts:

1. Coconuts produce milk or "lactatify."
2. Coconuts are hairy little buggers.
3. The edible part of a coconut is called "the meat," just like the edible part of a person.
4. Coconut milk can be used as a replacement for blood plasma, which must be true because he read it in Wikipedia.
5. Coconuts like to vote for Ralph Nader.

Thus, coconuts have milk, hair, meat, blood and leftist political leanings. Coconuts are mammals, which is why you're allowed to marry a coconut in Gary, Indiana.

Prof. Mater is still attempting to determine which animal family coconuts belong to. They could be members of the goldfish family, or possibly a kind of fruit bat.

One of the professor's coconuts won the Westminster Dog Show last week, so coconuts may also be a kind of poodle. But, then again, the judges might have just been being nice.

To celebrate the discovery, a local pet store, Fur Sure, is giving away a free coconut with every purchase of an emotionally disturbed wiener dog. Puppy antidepressants not included.

.....Happy April Fools!

Is Obama Anti-war? PAGE 4

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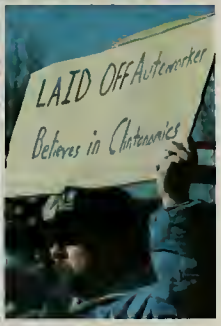
Boxer's Mid-life Crisis: Wrestlemania? PAGE 10

Hillary Clinton Rally

by Han Nguyen & Said El-Dajani



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Campus Calendar

IPFW

April 3–9, 2008

3 **ACCS Express Lane Résumé Critiques:** KT 109, noon–2 p.m. Call 16595.

4 **Athletics Event:** Men's Volleyball v. Mercyhurst, GC, 7 p.m. Call 10713.

5 **Athletics Event:** Men's Volleyball v. Lewis, GC, 7 p.m. Call 10713.

6 **Ice Cream Social and Fundraiser:** "Dons Dodge it for Turnstone," GC, 2–5 p.m. Sponsored by Student Athletic Leadership Team. For information, contact sghoppes@yahoo.com.

7 **Spanish Table:** WU Cafeteria, noon. Call 16689 or e-mail confortm@ipfw.edu.

Eating Disorder Support Group: WU 234, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Call 16647.

Recital: Flute and Clarinet Studio Showcase, Rhinehart Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 16714.

8 **Athletice Events:** Baseball v. Ball State, Mastodon Field, 3 p.m.; Men's Volleyball v. Ohio State, GC, 7 p.m. Call 10713.

Faculty Recital: Farrell Vernon, saxophone, Rhinehart Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 16714.

9 **ACCS Express Lane Résumé Critiques:** KT 109, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Call 16595.

Anthropology Club Luncheon Lecture Series: Saneta Maiko, topic TBA; KT G46, noon. Free pizza. Call 16272.

S.O.L.D. Meeting: WU 114, noon. Call 16883.

Athletics Event: Softball v. Valparaiso, softball field, 3 p.m. Call 10713.

IPFW Dinner Series: "An Evening in Italy" Sycamore Hills Golf Club, 6:30 p.m. Presented by Hospitality and Tourism Management Program; tickets $35 per person. Call 16619.

Recital: Guitar Ensemble, Rhinehart Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. Call 16714.

This ad courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor

Dinner or Dinero?

By JESSIE RUCKMAN
ruckjl01@ipfw.edu

Recently, I sat perched at my favorite bar stool, slicing delicately into a 6 oz. filet mignon, medium rare please, with a Stella Artois poised to douse my thirst. Any special reason? It was Tuesday. And that's just how I roll.

But then, after a couple more Stellas and after I had finished the last morsel of moo, the check, came. And I shelled out a little less than $30, it occurred to me: *Jess, maybe that impromptu cash burn wasn't quite necessary.* Or perhaps, I was seeing double. Damn that Stella Artois for being so delicious.

Admittedly, I love to spoil myself when I get the chance. I work hard, study hard, and dammit, I should get to play hard, too! And I'll bet that I have the same attitude as many other students when it comes to self-spoiling.

But here is the rub: spending all that cash on frivolity can leave one's bank account stranded south of the $0 border. And that, dear friends, is a bummer.

I'm not saying you shouldn't splurge every so often, and goodness knows everyone needs new clothes (and soap, deodorant and ladies... razors. Seriously. Nobody likes natural leg warmers.), but splurge only when the bills have been paid, and The Man is satiated.

"Pay your bills first... and then you can splurge, sans guilt."

Let me put this into perspective for you slow-witted ones out there: pay your bills first, put some cash into a high-yield savings account, invest a little, and THEN you can splurge, sans guilt. There is nothing worse than coming home with your treasures, only to do the walk of shame, back to the store in order to return something.

Play this little scenario over in your mind as I illustrate my point:

YOU: "I'd like to return these shoes, those shirts and that pair of flip-flops."

CLERK: "Was something wrong with this item?"

YOU: "No."

CLERK: "Why are you returning it?"

YOU (head hung low in shame): "Because I am a moron and I didn't pay my bills first..."

Don't be ashamed if you've had to do this before – I have too. But trust me, I've reformed.

And with a little bit of time and a lot of diligence, you too can avoid the financial walk of shame, and splurge with style – when there's dinero to blow, of course.

2008 to be a big year for young voters

Candidates targeting youth through Myspace, Facebook

By EDWARD NELSON
nelsea01@ipfw.edu

After two incredibly close presidential elections, the youth vote may be the deciding factor in 2008. The election of 2000 only saw a 36 percent youth voter turnout, a 25-year low. However, the youth vote in 2004 rebounded with a spike of 11 percent. Despite this aggressive improvement, the current election season is expected to receive another jolt in youth voter turnout.

A presidential poll by Harvard University's Institute of Politics projected upwards of 77 percent of younger voters will turn out this year. This steep increase in turnout is due to a number of different reasons, including candidates reaching out to the youth, the relevancy of political issues to them and close primaries.

Barack Obama and Ron Paul were some of the first major candidates to put a focus on the younger voters. When their endeavors reaped success, other candidates also made efforts to entice the youth as well.

Facebook and MySpace pages are the popular ways to attract young voters, but candidates have also launched other television and Internet campaigns to appeal to the youth.

"This will be my first time voting," first year student Maggie Maher said. "It is good to see candidates reach out to the younger generation. I have started to pay attention to campaign advertising, mostly on TV and on YouTube."

"Candidates have also launched other television and Internet campaigns to appeal to the youth."

Another component of recent elections that has attracted a large youth turnout is the strong relation recent events have had with younger voters. Rock the Vote Executive Director Heather Smith told NPR radio that young voters are tired of politicians making decisions for them without their input.

Key issues in this election are the war in Iraq, fought by this age group, and a declining economy that seems unwelcoming to those preparing to leave school and enter the business world.

"One of the most important issues is the economy," junior Arista Thieme said. "Younger people are graduating college and are looking for jobs. They want a good economy to look forward to."

The fact that this primary season, especially that of the Democrats, is intensely close also intrigues younger voters. The enthusiasm of the presidential nominations has sparked up a lot of interest and the youth has responded.

In several states, the youth vote has doubled since 2004 and in states such as Iowa and Missouri the turnout has even tripled.

"For the first time in a long time candidates are reaching out to us and we are responding," Maher said. "We want to vote this year because our vote matters."

The IPSGA elections - What is at stake?

By DOUGLAS SCHMIDT
schmdn01@ipfw.edu

The Indiana Purdue Student Government Association elections are fast approaching. While they may not affect the country as dramatically as the presidential election, an individual student has a far greater chance of actually determining the outcome of an IPSGA election.

Kody Tinnel is running for student body president. When asked about his goals for his first term, Tinnel said that he wanted to "make the student body more active and as President I would have the means to do so more effectively. In addition IPSGA needs a leader with Student Government knowledge and experience, both of which I have and my opponent [DeAngelo LaVette] does not."

LaVette stated that his leadership experience comes from outside of student government. He said that he can offer IPSGA more diversity, as he can reach out to minority students, who would feel like they are more likely to be heard. He also mentioned his close ties to the campus, as he lives on campus and his opponent does not.

"Voting in the election... allows students to have some control over how their money is spent."

Tinnel would improve the IPSGA Web site, improve communication with the student body and make IPSGA legislation more clear.

LaVette will work to expand the student childcare program, which he believes will not increase tuition for childless students.

Voting in the election does not just help choose the winner, it also allows students to have some control over how their money is spent.

"Student government is in charge of a lot of money paid in by students," Tinnel said. "It is good to know how that money is being spent."

Although he is not yet in office, Tinnel has already faced his first minor scandal. Recently, The Communicator was contacted about a message Tinnel posted on Facebook. According to the email, Tinnel wrote on the site about Sen. Hillary Clinton, saying that "someone needs to rape and kill that stupid b****."

Tinnel was sent an email from a student voter concerned about the message. It would have been simple to delete the controversial post and pretend it did not happen, but Tinnel replied to the student, saying that his comment was simply a joke, albeit one in bad taste.

"The simple fact that the statement was made on ...facebook shows that it isn't exactly the most serious, sincere, or honest thing I would say... [but actually] the immature words used during informal conversations with friends."

IPSGA voting week is from April 7 - 12.

Is Barack Obama truly anti-war?

The young senator's voting record and early speeches cast some doubts

OP-ED
By DDOUGLAS SCHMIDT
schmdn01@lpfw.edu

Sen. Barack Obama has clearly positioned himself as the antiwar democratic candidate. Unlike his opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton, he did not vote for the original resolution that gave President Bush the authority to go to war with Saddam Hussein. However, he may be less worthy of the "antiwar candidate" title than his supporters believe.

Would Obama have voted for the resolution if he had been in office? In an article in July 26, 2004's New York Times, he seemed uncertain.

Obama said that, unlike Sen. John Kerry and Sen. John Edwards, he was "not privy to Senate intelligence reports... What would I have done? I don't know. What I know is that from my vantage point the case was not made."

Other members of Congress had apparently been convinced by the intelligence available at the time. The day after the article was published, Obama appeared to be convinced, as well.

During a speech at the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Obama spoke of a young man who had enlisted in the Marines and was about to be sent to Iraq. "And as I listened to him explain why he had enlisted – the absolute faith he had in our country and its leaders, his devotion to duty and service – I thought, this young man was all that any of us might ever hope for in a child."

Obama added that Americans had an obligation to "never, ever go to war without enough troops to win the war, secure the peace and earn the respect of the world."

That same day, Obama told the Chicago Tribune that he was not in favor of pulling out of Iraq at the present time and, in that respect, "there's not much of a difference between my position and George Bush's position at this stage."

In Obama's short time as a senator, he has voted many times to fund the war in Iraq. Since he took office, Obama has voted for more than $300 billion in additional war funding. He voted for H.R. 5631, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2007, S. 2766, the John Warner National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007, H.R. 4939, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery of 2006 and numerous other bills.

If Obama wished to "support the troops," voting for the funding to keep them in harm's way seems an odd way to do so. Perhaps the war would have continued anyway, without additional funding. Once the troops ran out of bullets, President Bush could have insisted that they continue the fight with bayonets.

Whatever Obama's reasons, his voting record on Iraq is nearly identical to Clinton's. Both senators helped to prolong the war, a war that has killed 4,000 Americans and counting.

"Both senators helped to prolong the war in Iraq, a war that has killed 4,000 Americans and counting."

In an MSNBC debate last year, Obama said that, by the end of his first term as president, "We would get combat troops out of Iraq. The only troops that would remain would be those that have to protect U.S. bases and U.S. civilians as well as to engage in counterterrorism activities in Iraq."

Apparently, if Obama wins, the U.S. would still have a significant military presence in Iraq.

Later in the debate, he was asked to pledge that all of the troops would be out of Iraq by the end of his first term. He refused, instead saying that he "believed" all of the troops would be out, but he did not "want to make promises, not knowing what the situation is going to be three or four years out."

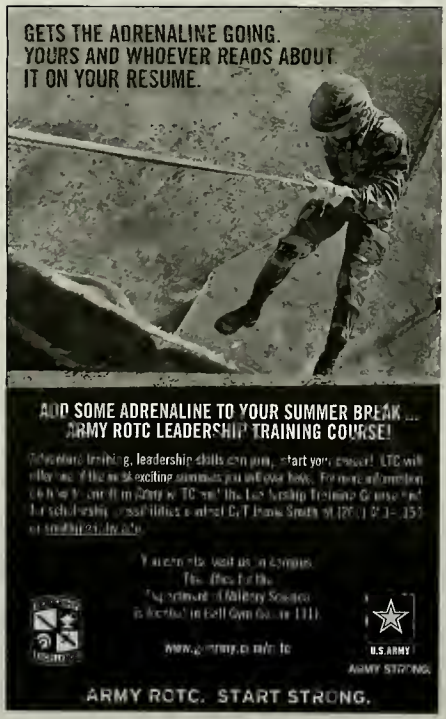
"He may reduce the U.S. military presence in Iraq, or he may not. Obama... is not against war."

He may reduce the U.S. military presence in Iraq, or he may not.

Obama may be against full-scale combat in Iraq, but he is not against war. If elected, he is likely to begin a new war against Pakistan. While speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Center last year, Obama said, "If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets [in Pakistan] and President Musharraf won't act, we will." Americans were told that George W. Bush had "actionable intelligence" about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and we all know what happened there.

While Obama's position on Iraq may have changed somewhat over the years, the inconsistency in his speeches and voting record is cause for concern. When George W. Bush was running for his first term, he stated that he was against nation building and for a "humble" foreign policy.

If Obama is elected, democratic voters may find that their candidate has the same level of commitment to his promises. Voters may wish to examine Obama's record and his character before they make their final decision.



Top 10 April Fools Day Pranks

The Following April Fools pranks are for entertainment purposes only. Furthermore, The Communicator does not support the use of these pranks...ever.

10. Taking your friends on a long road trip then driving off a bridge.

9. Starting a fake political protest against something everybody enjoys, like puppies, flowers - or arson.

8. Putting yourself up for adoption.

7. Filling a piñata with knives.

6. Hiding a baby.

5. Giving your girlfriend some nice lingerie but, when she puts it on, it's full of bees.

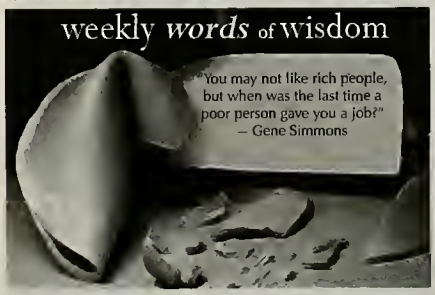
4. Telling your kids they can do anything they put their minds to.

3. Acting like you're going to give your friend a high five but, at the last second, jerking your hand away. Also, you stab him with a screwdriver.

2. Waiting until your friend falls asleep and then stapling his eyelids shut.

1. Getting pregnant.

weekly *words* of wisdom



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

9			7			4	1	5
6		4	9					
2			8	5			9	
						6	2	7
		6		2		9		
1	7	2						
	6			3	8			4
					5	1		9
4	3	1			9			8

Answers to last week's Sudoku

9	8	8	7	1	2	5	3	4
3	2	5	8	9	4	8	7	1
1	4	7	5	8	3	2	8	9
4	9	1	3	6	8	7	2	5
8	8	2	1	7	5	4	9	3
7	5	3	2	4	9	1	8	8
8	1	4	9	3	7	8	5	2
5	3	8	8	2	1	9	4	7
2	7	9	4	5	8	3	1	8

Horoscopes

By Douglas Schmidt

Aries Mar 21- Apr 19
A beautiful woman is like the sun, filling a dark world with light. Also, if you touch her, she'll set you on fire.

Taurus Apr 20- May 20
You will become the first contestant on a new game show, "Who wants to outrun a police dog?"

Gemini May 21- June 20
You know how they chain up the pens at the bank so nobody steals them? Yeah, it doesn't work that way with girlfriends.

Cancer June 21- July 22
You will become famous after writing a popular children's book: Kitty Kleptoi, The Kitten Who Likes to Shoplift.

Leo July 23- Aug 22
You will finally realize you have an eating disorder after you break up with your boyfriend just so you can eat ice cream to make yourself feel better.

Virgo Aug 23- Sep 22
After buying a cockatoo, you will wonder what else you can keep in a wire cage in your bedroom. Say hello to your boyfriend for me.

Libra Sep 23- Oct 22
After becoming a city planner, you will come up with a brilliant solution to traffic jams: the double cul-de-sac.

Scorpio Oct 23- Nov 21
You will fail your poetry writing class when your professor discovers that all you did was sign your name to the lyrics to "My Humps."

Sagittarius Nov 22- Dec 21
After realizing that nothing is sexier than a man with a good sense of humor, you will decide to ask out the guy who writes the funny horoscopes for the newspaper. The rejection will be devastating.

Capricorn Dec 22- Jan 19
Your girlfriend will change your relationship forever with just three little words: "Your dad's hot."

Aquarius Jan 20- Feb 18
Remember when you were eight and you sold your soul to the devil? This weekend, he'll finally grant you that wish. Enjoy your Spice Girls tickets!

Pisces Feb 19- Mar 20
Years of study will finally pay off when you discover the secret to life after death: the life part is easy if the death is someone else's.

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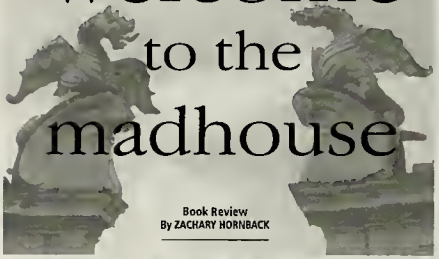
Welcome to the madhouse



Book Review
By ZACHARY HORNBACK

Two parts mystery, three parts action and one part sex, "Madhouse" hit shelves in February with a bang. The relieved sigh of the fans who had been waiting in trepidation for nearly a year for this third installment in the Leandros Brothers series was heard across the nation. Rob Thurman returns to her twisted fairy tale world and ensnares her audience once again in this spooky thriller.

The story focuses around Cal and Niko Leandros, two Romani brothers who live in New York City and hire out as supernatural bounty hunters. Both are caught up in a race to find a mad, murderous monster who is slaughtering New Yorkers and leading an army of the pseudo-undead. They're also out to find the person who hired assassins to kill their friend and comrade, Robin Goodfellow. On top of all that, Cal is also struggling with the emotional detachment that he grew up with because of his own monstrous lineage.

The plot is intense – this book is hard to put down. It is thrilling and Thurman's mythology hits right on the mark. Vampires, werewolves, boggles and redcaps are simple a few of the monsters. The setting is a supernatural side of New York that fuels this cynical and surreal narrative. Living mummies and demon chickens punctuate a story that is at once whimsical and terrifyingly dark. Thurman doesn't shy away from gruesome death, but instead uses it accentuate her villains to a demonic perfection.

This book is Thurman's best work to date, with wonderful characters, vivid setings and a compelling plot. This book is a must-read, rising to number three on the charts at both Barnes & Noble and Borders. Thurman has contributed fantastically to the expanding genre of urban fantasy with her work so far and we all should anticipate her next release in the Leandros Brothers' story.

Legendary Film Comes to DVD

By JESSIE RUCKMAN
ruckj01@ipfw.edu

Will Smith is back, starring in the third version of "I Am Legend", as Robert Neville, the last man alive after a supposed cancer cure turns most of humanity into blood thirsty, vampire-type monsters.

Originally debuted as a sci-fi novel in 1954 by Richard Matheson, it has been made into two previous films, The Last Man On Earth starring Vincent Price in 1964, and The Omega Man in 1971 starring Charlton Heston.

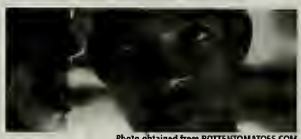


Photo obtained from ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Now, it's Will Smith's turn, and instead of the futuristic drama taking place in a devastated Los Angeles, it is now New York City's turn to become decimated by disease, leaving only Dr. Robert Neville and his dog, Sam to save the world.

Admittedly, I know nothing about the zombie/blood & guts genre of film making, but as Wikipedia so eloquently states, "It is notable as influential on the developing modern vampire genre as well as the zombie genre, in popularizing the fictional concept of a worldwide apocalypse due to disease, and in exploring the notion of vampirism as a disease."

In truth, we have seen this before in such novels as Frankenstein, and Dracula, but Richard Matheson brought the sci-fi genre into the 20th (and now 21st) century. Smith's performance gives this drama a fresh feel and twist as he races souped-up Mustangs and uses a crossbow to hunt deer in Times Square.

During the day, Smith and Sam roam the streets in search of food and entertainment (presumably getting all of this necessary electricity from massive generators), occasionally driving golf balls off of docked warships and into windows.

But at night, when the monsters come out to play, Smith's character is in his laboratory basement performing tests on captured vampires, in an attempt to cure humanity.

The movie set is masterfully created, highlighting the isolation of this main character, and though some of the more important moments broke my heart instead of striking fear into it, the movie was beautifully done. "I Am Legend" is a must-see, and provides something for everyone, whether seeking adventure, adrenaline, sadness or quasi-happy endings.

Though I haven't read the book or seen the first two movies, my interest has been piqued; I'm hitting Netflix to watch the first two versions, but not before heading to the library to pick up the book.

Texas A&M Student Wins MTVU Music Video Contest

By BEN JOHNSON
Courtesy of UWIRE

Unwittingly setting into motion events that would drastically shape her immediate future, Lauren Simpson, Texas A&M University student decided to check out this particular banner. The advertisement led her to mtvu.com, where she discovered a contest. The contest challenged anyone with the creative ability to pitch an idea for the next Motion City Soundtrack music video. The winner would get the chance to bring his or her vision to life and direct the music video for Motion City Soundtrack's latest single, "It Had to Be You."

Several weeks later, after submitting her idea, the eager Texas A&M graduate student received an email.

"At first the message just said my submission was one of the finalists and they wanted to get some more specifics. All I had submitted was really just a sort of outline and some illustrations," she said. "I was really excited. I didn't even think mine would end up winning, but I was thrilled that I was a finalist."

Simpson continued to correspond with the officials of the contest, as well as Justin Pierre, the band's lead vocalist. Several more days passed as Simpson waited for the call that would inevitably change her plans for the next several weeks. Simpson said she was ecstatic when she was contacted with the information that her submission had been chosen.

"I was so excited. I couldn't believe that my submission had won. The opportunity to do professional work that millions of people would get a chance to see was thrilling," Simpson said.

With the video completed and available now for everyone to see on mtv.com and mtvu.com, Simpson is moving on to be an animator at Pixar Animation Studios.

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Your Article Here

By WE WANT YOU HERE
youremailhere@ipfw.edu

Disclaimer: In the spirit of April Fool's Day, the A&E editor has left this space blank for you to write your own article. You might write a review. You might write an opinion piece. Or, you might draw stick figures in compromising positions. I suggest "The Wheelbarrow"

We want you!

The **Communicator** is now hiring both freelance and staff writers! There are four issues left this semester and we are committed to giving you the best student publication we can. Here are just some of the perks:

- Freelance writers get paid per article.
- Staff writers get paid more for having a weekly column.
- Looks great on a resume.
- Arts & Entertainment writers may get into concerts and movies for free.
- Interviews with band members, authors, and other exciting opportunities.

The Communicator will be hiring editors for the next academic year soon as well!

If any of these opportunities interest you, you can simply email the Editor-in-Chief or you can contact the editor of the specific section you'd like to write for at:

Editor-in-Chief: Jessie Ruckman
ruckjl01@ipfw.edu

Managing Editor: Said El-Dajani
eldasn01@ipfw.edu

Politics & Money Editor: Doug Schmidt
schmdn01@ipfw.edu

Arts & Entertainment Editor: Zach Homback
homzh01@ipfw.edu

Student Life Editor: Katy Anderson
andekn01@ipfw.edu

Sports Editor: Dan Vance
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the truth revealed

21: Bringing Down the House

By MARISHA ZIMMERMAN
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The new movie "21," which opened in theaters Mar. 28, claims to be the true story of six MIT students who took Vegas for millions, but the true story was actually written by Ben Mezrich, and the movie is only loosely based on his book. "21: Bringing Down the House," which was originally published in 2002, tells the true story of Kevin Lewis (not his real name, of course) and his part in a group of students from MIT who formed an elite team of card counters that were able to take millions of dollars from Casinos in Las Vegas, as well as thousands from other casinos around the country.

Kevin, who is also a mathematics genius, was introduced to card counting by two of his friends and took to it immediately. He originally sees card counting as another math problem, a mathematical challenge with high stakes and a big payoff. As time goes on, he becomes a vital part of the group and, as a result, begins to lead a double life.

On the weekdays, he's a quiet and intelligent student with a girlfriend, while on weekends he lives as one of his nine different alter egos in Las Vegas, winning big bucks and enjoying the good life most people only wish they could win. His personal life, however, begins to suffer when he can't tell anyone exactly what he's doing on the weekends.

> **"They justify their card counting by saying it isn't illegal: they bet based on the cards in the game; the outcome isn't changed."**

Throughout the story, Kevin and several of the other characters must keep reminding themselves that what they are doing is not illegal because they are not changing the outcome of the game; they are only changing how they bet based on the cards in the game.

These characters, along with others, justify their actions through this explanation of card counting, but in the end none of them can deny how much they enjoy the payoff. By the time he graduates, Kevin is torn between two worlds and works to successfully inhabit both.

While the majority of the book takes place in the mid-nineties, the author also includes chapters in the present day, describing his meetings and interviews with various characters in the story. By including these meetings, he offers insights into the personal motivations, decisions, feelings, and actions of the some of the characters.

This personal insight offers explanations of how the characters were able to pull of the elaborate plans for taking a casino and how they were able to live with their actions as card counters.

Mezrich seems to make an argument for card counting as being part of a way to achieve the American dream. At the same time he seems to try to show how this American dream can affect ones life. "21: Bringing Down the House" tells an exciting and detailed story that kept this reader turning the pages eagerly.

FLAVOR SAURUS

By ZACHARY HORNBACK
hornzh01@ipfw.edu

Way back in February there was a feature article in the A&E section about a student with an ambitious venture. Flavorsaurus Threads, by JustinHein, recently opened up its online store. The store is still in its infancy, but sports an amusing FAQ and several clothing options to order. My personal favorite is the question of how to take care of your Flavorsaurus clothing. Their answer?

"Please don't wash the shirts with glass, rocks, or knives. They tend to beat up your shirt pretty bad. We say wash them in cold and flip your shirt inside out, that way the design stays so fresh and clean over time."

Flavorsaurus Threads is a clothing line curtailing to the punk or Warped Tour scene, with clothing priced around $20.

The pictures above are off the website, which can be found at:

http://www.flavorsaurus.bigcartel.com/

IPFW tests new safety alert system

Campus security gets an upgrade by incorporating software, speaker, telephone systems into safety program

By LOUISA OANIELSON
Danila02@ipfw.edu

In this day and age, police and safety does not just mean checking parking meters and locking doors – it means working through any means possible to help protect students and staff on campus.

This was demonstrated recently by a testing of the newest security software that IPFW recently began using. Called Reverse 911, this software system allows campus police to send alerts to students across the campus via campus telephones and through e-mail to notify them of emergencies, like weather warnings and dangerous situation

The system tested on Thursday, Mar. 20 was a dry run of the 'slow pace' system –such as warnings of weather alerts and lower-caliber emergencies. There was a 90 percent success rate for the telephone side of the system. Approximately 42 percent of calls were picked up and 48 percent of calls reached answering machines.

"We were above the norm on that," said Police Chief Lauren Oenhartog. But the e-mail alerts however did not work as well.

"We were watching it and boy, this one's fast - then it dropped to 450 e-mails... (and it) came to a grinding slowdown," Denhartog said.

Evidently, the campus software security system misinterpreted the mass e-mailings as spam or as some other dangerous Internet material and shut it down. "(The good news is that's why we test when it isn't an emergency," Oenhartog said.

IPFW is also checking into adding emergency broadcasting access to the Carillon speakers on the Classroom Medical building and putting a speaker on top of either the Visual Arts or Williams Theater buildings at the north end of the campus.

The police are also looking into synchronizing the electronic signboards, like those on the parking garages and over the walkway between Neff and Classroom Medical, so that an emergency override can broadcast messages.

"What's become increasingly evident is that we need the best way of notifying students and faculty," Oenhartog said.

IT Services and the police have meetings on a weekly basis to discuss security issues. By next fall, they hope to have a student sign-up available for students who want to receive text messages, cell phone or home phone calls about alerts.

"We're just starting to look at text messaging. [It is] definitely down the road," said Oenhartog.

The newest buildings on campus have different fire alarm and tornado warning systems than the older buildings. Traditionally, a fire alarm is signaled by flashing strobe lights and a continuous siren blaring through the halls. Tornado warnings are indicated by a pulsing siren and no lights.

Now, in the new music building, the alarm system broadcasts a voice stating whether it's a fire or tornado alarm, and telling people what to do. As buildings are created or renovated, the new system will be installed.

Oenhartog noted that in his 32 years of service on campus, there have never been any major fires or tornados to hit the school. Not to say the alarms never go off - "There's so many sensors... dust dust, steam, etc. will trigger a false alarm," he said.

Fire alarms are tested when the school is empty – usually in the middle of the night. Fire extinguishers are also checked routinely and quarterly reports are sent to staff and faculty. "(I take) every chance I can to get information out," Oenhartog said.

> "What's become increasingly evident is that we need the best way of notifying students and faculty."

Last week's answer: Satellite dish next to the Helmke Library.

Spot ON Campus

Do you know where this spot **is on IPFW's campus?**

Email Katy Anderson at Andekn01@ipfw.edu by 4/12/08 for your chance to win bragging rights because we're poor.

Presidential campaign launches competition for Indiana high school, college students

Competition intends to increase voter registration, turnout among Hoosiers

By KATY ANDERSON
Andekn01@ipfw.edu

College and high school students have a chance to participate in a favorite Indiana pastime with one of the presidential candidates.

The presidential primary election is coming up in Indiana on May 6. The competition between the two Democratic candidates is highly contested this election year, which makes every vote more valuable to the candidates.

In order to vote in this election, one must register to vote by April 7.

For the purpose of increasing voter registration and voting in general, especially among young people, the Obama campaign has launched a competition in Indiana. This event is called the "Three-on-Three Challenge for Change."

If an Indiana college or high school student is able to get 30 people registered to vote before April 6, the winning college student will be eligible for a chance to play a three-on-three basketball game with Senator Barack Obama. The selected high school student will get to play against Obama and his team.

To learn more information concerning this event, one can visit the Fort Wayne Obama office at 124 Columbia Street.

Recap of last week's **IPFW Health Fair**

ABOVE: Sophomore Mujhgan Ali and Freshman Nashida Aseel learn the truh of washing their hands with Nursing students Marissa Pfister and Jessica Dominiak

MASSAGE: Freshman, Nic Reusser receives a massage. The Health Fair was scattered with Massage Therapists (mid top photo).

Mid Bottom: IPFW athletes Keevan Miller (right), and Josh Sammer guard the auction table.

the Communicator

news arts opinion money
politics lifestyle
sports entertainment

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Mayweather crosses barrier, shines at Wrestlemania

In All Directions

By DAN VANCE
vance-iad.blogspot.com

"It's not easy."

That was Floyd Mayweather's first thought he passed on to the media after his pro wrestling debut on Sunday's WWE Wrestlemania show.

Easy or not, Mayweather made it look pretty good and mildly entertaining. And in such, boxing's best pound-for-pound fighter took a step and crossed a barrier that no man really has before. He has made the transition from fan favorite athlete to legit bad guy in the male soap opera world of the WWE.

Other celebrities and athletes have attempted to make crossovers, usually at Wrestlemania, several times over the last decade. But none could be considered as widely publicized or successful as Floyd Mayweather's appearance last Sunday.

Not only did Mayweather get the win (the WWE wasn't paying him to come and lose), but he was entertaining in the process. And he was entertaining booked as the bad guy in the match. And if anyone has ever watched Mayweather's personality, they know that he is far from the bad guy.

Mayweather showed that he can be a character. And let's face it, that is what pro wrestling is about, right? And while he was obviously out of his element, he put on a good showing for a guy who's never been in that kind of ring before.

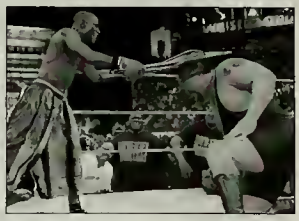
From his faux-fur shorts to his "Philthy Rich" medallion, Mayweather found an amazing new medium to showcase his over the top personality.

Will he pass on boxing, retire at 39-0 and become the WWE's next evil intruder? Doubtful. But it was fun to watch for one night.

The bottom line is that Mayweather is the first athlete to cross this shaky barrier and be successful.

Do I think more athletes should do this? Absolutely not (said with a smile). Honestly, I don't really think that anybody else could pull this off quite like "Money" Mayweather did.

It was a once in a lifetime kind of thing and the WWE and Mayweather both did their best. It was worth the watch anyway and that says a lot about the appeal of Mayweather in general as his real sport continues its' decline.



CHAIR: Floyd Mayweather used a chair to help pick up his first pro wrestling victory.

Wanted

Home City Ice- Route Drivers

* Commission Based / Motivated Individuals
* Some weekends required
* Experience not necessary, will train
* No selling, service esablished route accounts
* COL class B required, will train
* Company grooming policy
* Physical lifting required
* Full / Part-Time Positions
* Flexable Hours
* Uniforms furnished
* Clean driving record
* Drug screen required
* Reliable transportation

This commission based position offers high $$ earnings potential for a motivated, responsible person not intimated by hard work and physical lifting. No selling involved, just servicing our established customer routes. We offer Full/PT positions with flexable hours. Experience not necessary, will train. CDL license not required but helpful, we will train to obtain. A clean driving record is required and compliance with company grooming/uniform policy. We also require some weekend availability and reliable transportation.

Apply online at www.homecityice.com or fax resume to 574-834-2898.

Martinez sisters shine in Raleigh

Raleigh, NC- The IPFW women's Track and Field team competed in the prestigious Adidas Raleigh Relays hosted by North Carolina State over the weekend.

The meet was highlighted by performances by senior Laura Williams in the shot put and junior Crystina Martinez in the 10,000m distance run. Both women broke IPFW school records. Williams placed 23rd in the shot put throwing 11.99m. Martinez finished second in the 10,000m at 35:57.27.

Crystal Martinez also ran a great race in the 10,000m. She crossed the finish line third with a time of 36:16.97.

Head Coach Mike Fruchey stated, "Our meet went well. The team is looking forward to Cincinnati next week, as we continue to try to improve."

Val Hardesty finished 11th in the 3000 meter Steeplechase. Anina Gruber and Ashley Porter followed in 16th and 19th respectively.

The Mastodons will travel back to Cincinnati to compete in the Oliver Nikoloff Invitational on April 5.

The Communicator

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Editorial Policy

Editorials are the opinions of The Communicator. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of IPFW, its employees or its student body. A column is solely the opinion of its author.

The Communicator welcomes responses. Letters to the Editor must be signed, dated and accompanied by a current address, telephone number and class standing/major or title (if applicable). Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered for publication.

All submissions made via e-mail will be verified by telephone or in person. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

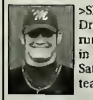
Submissions must be typed, and no more than 700 words.

The editorial board of the Communicator reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, style, and clarity. Letters deemed potentially libelous by the editorial board will not be published under any circumstances.

Scoreboard

Mastodon scores for 3/24-3/31

Players of the Week



>Shaun VanDriessche Drove in a total of seven runs against Goshen in a double header on Saturday. He now was a team high 16 RBI.

>Hanna Hager No.2 singles players was perfect over the weekend, winning twice by scores of 6-0, 6-0 in Pennsylvania.

Baseball
March 25 – 4-5 loss to Butler (10 innings)
March 26 – 2-4 loss to Michigan
March 29 – 7-1 win over Goshen
March 29 – 6-0 win over Goshen

Mens Golf
March 25 – Tied for 6th at Butler Invite
March 29 – 15th at adidas Hoosier Invite

Womens Golf
March 25 – 6th Place at Butler

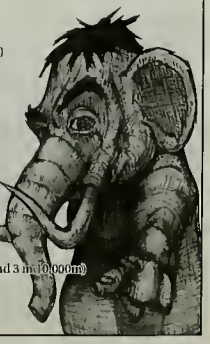
Softball
March 25 – 5-6 loss to Dayton (8 innings)
March 25 – 3-1 win over Dayton
March 29 – 2-14 loss to Southern Utah
March 29 – 8-3 win over Southern Utah

Men's Tennis
March 28 – 7-0 win over UMKC
March 29 – 5-2 win over S.Dakota St.
March 30 – 1-4 loss to Oral Roberts

Women's Tennis
March 29 – 7-0 win over St. Francis (PA)
March 30 – 7-0 win over Robert Morris

Track & Field
March 29 – Raleigh Relays
>Crystal, Crystina Martinez (2 and 3 in 10,000m)

Men's Volleyball
March 28 – 3-0 win over Rutgers
March 29 – 1-3 loss to George Mason



Baseball and softball open up home season

■ S. Utah and IPFW split on softball diamond, Mastodon baseball team takes double header from visiting Goshen in filler games

The IPFW baseball team swept a double header from visiting Goshen College on Saturday afternoon at Mastodon Field. The 'Dons took game one, 7-1 and captured the nightcap, 6-0.

The Mastodons pounded out 21 hits in the twinbill, and the biggest came in the first inning of game one.

After singles by shortstop Mark Carden and catcher Devin Taylor, and a walk to centerfielder Jared Davis to open the contest, sophomore first baseman Shaun VanDriessche stepped up and blasted a grand slam over the wall in the left field corner. It was VanDriessche's second homer of the season, and IPFW led, 4-0 after one.

Goshen got one back in their half of the first as centerfielder Sean Doering dropped down a perfect squeeze bunt, so perfect that he reached while right fielder Tom McDowell scored.

IPFW starter Stacy Herrold went 6.0 innings for the win. He gave up just one run on four hits. He struck out two and didn't walk a batter.

Reliever A.J. Risedorph came on wrapped up the seventh allowing just one hit.

In game two, the Mastodons got three in the 1st inning. VanDriessche plated Taylor with a sacrifice fly, Brown doubled in Davis, and third baseman Jimmy Gilliland chased home Brown with and RBI single to left.

In the second, VanDriessche drove in his sixth and seventh runs of the double header.

Senior Ben Boehne combined with Scott Well and Jake Hollander for a three-hit shutout.

Boehne got the win going four complete. He gave up one hit, striking out one and walking two. Wells and Hollander also gave up just a single hit, each striking out one and walking one.

The softball team picked up their first Summit League victory, splitting a double header with the Southern Utah Thunderbirds (9-23, 5-3 Summit). The Thunderbirds were victorious by a 14-2 score in the opener, before the 'Dons rebounded for an 8-3 victory in the afternoon finale.

Southern Utah's bats came out blazing to start the double header, as the visitors scored four runs in their first at-bat. IPFW rallied with a run in the bottom of the first inning, as Ty Lambert singled to third base with the bases loaded, scoring Rachel Staschuk, and cutting the deficit to three at 4-1.

After both teams went scoreless in the second inning, the Thunderbirds rattled off 10 straight runs, scoring three in the third inning, six in the fourth and adding another in the fifth. The 'Dons scored a final run in the fifth inning when Kristina Karpun crossed the plate on a throwing error, giving the game its 14-2 final score.

In the nightcap, Southern Utah first reached the scoreboard with a run in the second inning when Aly Daniels scored on an RBI double off the bat of Shannon Lum.

The 'Don bats awoke in the fourth inning when the team scored four runs, all unearned, against Brooks. The first two runs came when Thunderbird a throw to home with the bases loaded went awry, scoring Abby Liden and Karpun. After a strikeout, Ava Hall singled up the middle, scoring Lambert before Jil Price knocked in Beatrice Pedraza with a single to right field.

Liden was 2-for-2 in the nightcap.

'Dons continue struggles, split weekend series

Nationally ranked number-11 George Mason rode Kyle Gramit's match-high 25 kills and Erik Lanham's 11 total blocks to top IPFW, 3-1 on Saturday night in Virginia.

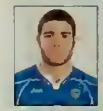
The Patriots, who took two out of three vs. IPFW in 2008, won by the scores of 30-24, 30-27, 26-30, and 30-25.

With the win, George Mason improved to 16-6, while the Mastodons fell to 10-11.

Along with Gramit's 25 kills, GMU got 19 kills from Hudson Bates.

Senior outside hitter C.J. Macias (20) and freshman middle Oliver Kook (12) were the only Mastodons to hit for double-figures.

ULLRICH



MACIAS

Senior middle Josh Stewart had four solo blocks and five block assists in the match, while sophomore libero Matt Pliske led the team with 10 digs.

George Mason outhit IPFW .339 to .233.

They had got back to .500 on the season with a 3-0 sweep of Rutgers-Newark on Friday night in New Jersey.

The Mastodons evened their record at 10-10 by the scores of 30-23, 30-25, and 30-21.

Macias led all scorer's with a match-high 14 kills. Macias hit .500 and served up three aces.

Macias was assisted on the offensive side by seniors Brock Ullrich and Stewart with eight and six kills, respectively.

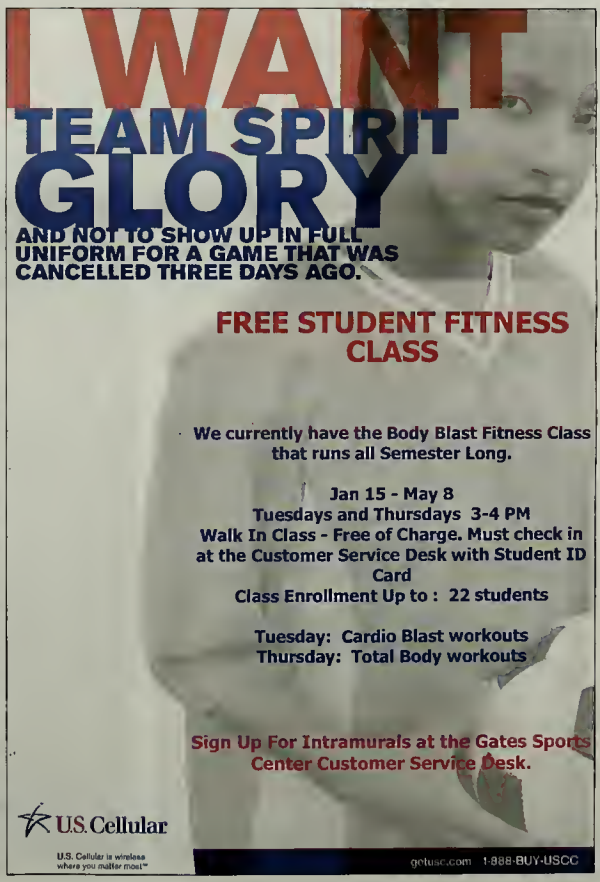
Kevin Goncalves saw his first action of the season at setter and dished out 19 assists. He also had three kills and six digs.

Kook registered three solo blocks and three block assists.

Nate Stott led the Scarlet Raiders with 11 kills. IPFW outhit Rutgers-Newark .316 to .121

IPFW will return home to host a pair of conference matches next weekend. The 'Dons will host Mercyhurst on Friday night and Lewis on Saturday. Both matches begin at 7:00 p.m.

They will play a rare Tuesday game on April 8 as a makeup date with Ohio State before closing the regular season with two EIVA opponents.



Bell's 'Operation name change'

■ Athletic Director speaks on changing of the guard, dropping of Mastodon moniker

Athletic Director Tommy Bell addressed the student body (well, the 12 that showed up) on Tuesday during his first annual "State of IPFW Athletics Address brought to you by Foot Locker©" at Gates Sports Center.

Bell, who replaced Mark Pope last summer rambled on for nearly two hours about how it was time for some changes at IPFW, first noting that new mascot was very badly needed.

"Mastodon? I mean, are we serious? I am pretty sure the morons who came up with this name were watching too much Power Rangers," Bell said with a jolly chuckle. "Oh, it was Rep. Mark Souder? Well that makes all of the sense in the world now honestly."

In coordination with that decision, Bell has launched 'Operation Name Change' to get word around about IPFW's new moniker: the Fighting Piña Coladas.

Also, Bell has decided that the school colors need to change to purple and neon green.

He noted that he doesn't really care what the Summit League or commissioner Tom Douple have to say about the changes.

"What does that punk know?"

In another highly controversial move, Bell has decided to do some rearranging of the sports.

"So Pope dropped track and added golf; that's amateur. I say, let's drop women's basketball and baseball in favor of something that will be more interesting. How about hand ball? Now that's a sport. And who else has it? That's right, Tommy Bell bringing IPFW it's first national title! Put that in your pipe and smoke it IUPUI."

"This is terrible," said women's basketball coach Chris Paul. "I worked hard to get this team where it is and he's dropping us? But then again, I am pretty bad-ass with a handball."

"Ya know, I could use a Pina Colada," Dane Fife added.

Conveniently, he now can just drink the mascot.

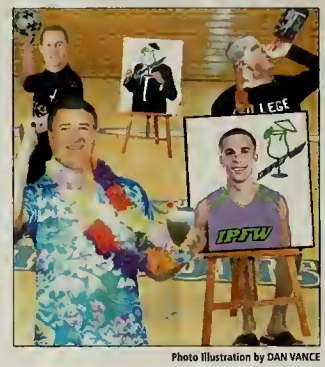


Photo Illustration by DAN VANCE

PURPLE & GREEN: AD Tommy Bell is happy about his landmark changes. Others were not so positive while some stayed optimistic about handball.

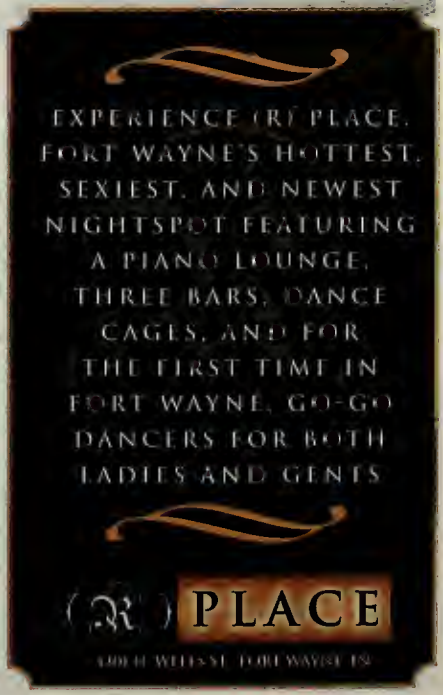
Ball tops Fife in Masto-Brawl III

Basketball is the top college sport offered by IPFW. Volleyball is the school's claim to fame. That alone was enough to bring the long awaited Arnie Ball/Dane Fife feud into the ring.

Despite giving up a substantial age difference, Ball defeated Fife in front of an estimated 16 fans at the third annual Masto-Brawl event. Ball used the "Spike of Death," powerslam to derail the upstart.

"Him? He was a cakewalk," Ball said after the match. "I have underwear older than Dane Fife and toenails longer and more successful than his coaching career."

In the highly anticipated rematch of their 2006 Ladder Match, Don the Mastodon fell to Boilermaker Pete in a Taipei Death Match. We are certain reports will show that Don died of semi-natural causes.

Also on the undercard, Chas Parry upset hoards of others to win a men's and women's soccer battle royal. The match was considered a win-win no matter the winner because at least the soccer program would win something this year.

A proposed cockfight between baseball coach Billy Gernon's new warrior "I Miss Keena," and women's volleyball coach Kelly Hartley's "Kill Bird," was cancelled after Gernon's 36th arrest on organization of illegal cockfighting rings within the last 72 months.